

October 2003

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Robert Wideman

Overview

During the month of October 2003, the Troopers of the Northern Command were successful in maintaining control of the traffic accident growth trends in the northern Nevada area. The total number of accidents rose 1.9% (8 accidents) compared to October 2002, but declined 1.3% (5 accidents) compared to September 2003. Changes in the trends described by such small numbers are statistically insignificant and represent no true change. However, no change in the number of accidents represents a positive outcome given the growth of the communities and the incursion of substantial construction projects upon the smooth flow of traffic.

Content:

Crash Analysis
Field Enforcement
Staffing Hours
Ratios
FY03 Performance
Administration
Reno Urban
Fernley / Fallon District
Carson / Minden District
Commercial Enforcement
Supplemental Information

In addition, accidents resulting in property damage were increased by 8.8% over both last year and last month. Since the total numbers were flat, that means that the incidence of death or injury has been deduced by a like amount. Unfortunately, a sharp increase occurred in the number of fatalities recorded. 8 fatal accidents occurred in October compared to only 3 last year and zero last month. 8 people died as compared to 5 last year. While this development is certainly troubling, the two-month average remains below the levels experienced last year.

Staffing levels within the command continue to demonstrate the effect of large scale growth in the southern portion of the state. Staff vacancies, as they occur, continue to be shifted south to compensate for that growth. While the Northern Command does not have an overall vacancy rate, the net effect of the re-allocation of positions is a substantial reduction in available work hours as compared to the same period last year. The total hours worked by Northern Command Troopers decreased by 35.8% from the levels reported during the same month last year. An increase in annual leave taken and an increase in the amount of time dedicated to providing instruction at the DPS Training Academy resulted in a combined loss of 14.4% in work hours lost compared to last month.

Enforcement activity decreased in the Northern Command commensurate with the decrease in available staffing. Total activity decreased 7.1% compared to last month while available work hours decreased 5.6%. The total number of persons arrested increased 15.9%, however. Physical arrests require a substantial investment in a Trooper's time, and consequently leave less time for other enforcement. Enforcement of occupant restraint laws increased 13.9% from last month and 76.3% from last year. Even though the available Trooper work hours decreased 35.8% from last year, overall enforcement activity increased 17.6% compared to the same period. Each employee produced a level of work nearly double that of each employee last year.

Commercial Enforcement personnel concluded the federal fiscal year reporting period with the close of October. Northern Command Troopers achieved all of their yearly goals for enforcement activity, with the exception of the number of check site events performed. That omission is related to the closing of the available check site locations for maintenance during the majority of the year.

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	October 2003		October 2002	% Change		September 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	372		364	1.9%		377	-1.3%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	272		250	8.8%		250	8.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	92		111	-17.1%		127	-27.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	8		3	166.7%		1	700.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	16		17	-5.9%		9	77.8%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	8		5	60.0%		1	700.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	4		1	300.0%		1	300.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		3	-66.7%		0	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	8		4	100.0%		6	33.3%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		4	25.0%		6	-16.7%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		0	300.0%		0	300.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 2.2%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 62.5%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 2.2%

Analysis:

S.I.R.T. (Severe Incident Response Team)

The Northern Command had eight fatal crashes during this period and the SIRT team responded to three fatal crashes. Two fatal crashes occurred in the Fernley district; two fatal crashes occurred in the Carson/Tahoe district, one fatal crash in the Fallon district and three fatal crashes occurred in the Reno district.

In the Northern Command, we are down in the number of total fatalities and in the number of deaths from last year. Last year, at this time, we had 44 fatal crashes with 60 deaths. Currently, we have had 40 fatal crashes with 41 deaths.

Reno Urban Traffic

In the Reno Urban area we had a slight decrease of "Total Crashes". Our property crashes had an increase of 19 crashes (12%). Part of the reason for the increase of the number of crashes was contributed to this area's first snow day of the season. This was a quick change in temperature and roadway conditions. In a two day period the Reno area went from an 80 degree temperature in the daytime to snowing. This sudden change in roadway conditions caused 10 property damage crashes on one shift alone. We did experience a drastic decrease of injury crashes for the month of October. Out of all of the property and injury crashes that occurred this month, 26.1% of them were within the construction zones.

The Reno Urban area had three fatal crashes. Two of these fatal crashes were single vehicle rollovers, with one being contributed to ice and snow covered roadways. The other fatal crash involved a driver losing control of his vehicle and colliding with a commercial vehicle.

Fernley/Fallon District

Total crashes increased 18.5% compared to last year and 45.5% compared to last month. The majority of increase being property damage crashes reporting a 72% increase compared to last year and a 47% increase over last month. Although the percentages seem high, the actual numbers are 20 more crashes compared to last month and 10 more than last year. We did see a 52% reduction of injury crashes this month compared to last year but increased one more fatality this year compared to last year. After reviewing the area crash data logs for both areas, there does not seem to be any trends requiring a change in our directed enforcement efforts. (This month we are reporting against last month when we showed a 40% reduction in crashes. 44 crashes in September compared to 74 crashes in August).

Although the Fernley Fallon areas reported a 80% increase in crashes involving commercial vehicles, none of the commercial vehicles involved were at fault with the exception of the fatal crash, which was a single vehicle crash.

The increase in crashes also increased our crash investigation time by 117%, or 102 hours reducing our on-view patrol time by 9%.

Carson/Minden District

The most positive news for the area is the reduction in total crashes by 22.8% over last month and 17.0% from last year. The Directed Enforcement program will continue to be stressed and monitored. Property Damage crashes dropped by 32.9% over last year and 16.4% over last month. Injury crashes dropped by 35.8% over last month. The down side is the increase in injury crashes of 17.2% over last year. The renewed emphasis on seatbelt enforcement will hopefully continue the trend of reduction in injury crashes for this year. Fatal crashes did increase, however, one was a crash we handled for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and the other was a vehicle versus pedestrian, with the pedestrian at fault. There were 2 commercial vehicle crashes. Although statistically small this continues to be monitored. Part of the increase may be due to the emphasis on accurate reporting of all categories of crashes.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	October 2003		October 2002	% Change		September 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	16		17	-5.9%		9	77.8%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	122		141	-13.5%		95	28.4%
Other Arrests	507		451	12.4%		449	12.9%
Total Persons Arrested (DUI included)	204		215	-5.1%		176	15.9%
Speed violations	1853		1601	15.7%		2205	-16.0%
Hazardous moving violations	743		712	4.4%		847	-12.3%
Occupant restraint violations *	335		190	76.3%		294	13.9%
Total violations ** [above violations included]	4858		4132	17.6%		5227	-7.1%
Hazardous moving violations-citations/arrests	21		14	50.0%		20	5.0%
Other traffic violations-citations/arrests	51		72	-29.2%		53	-3.8%
Total safety inspections [Lvls 1,2,3&6]	570		399	42.9%		557	2.3%
Terminal inspections TIP (Lvl 5)							
Total safety violations -- citation	533		337	58.2%		559	-4.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	933		647	44.2%		1000	-6.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	67		78	-14.1%		50	34.0%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	29		18	61.1%		20	45.0%
Total school buses inspected	74		218	-66.1%		188	-60.6%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	22		33	-33.3%		22	0.0%
Total trucks weighed	254		270	-5.9%		293	-13.3%
Total overweight citations	42		30	40.0%		62	-32.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	407		265	53.6%		621	-34.5%
Total dyed fuel citations	5		4	25.0%		3	66.7%

* Seat belt and child restraint

**Total violations include Speed, Hazardous, Occupant restraint, Registration, Drivers License, Insurance and Other Categories.

Analysis:**Reno Urban Traffic**

The Reno Urban area showed an increase in overall activity over last month. The slight improvement is important to recognize the troopers' effort in this area. At the beginning of October, all the urban sergeants were tasked to establish shift goals that they were going to have their shifts obtain. Some of those goals were not met. We are going to continue to strive to increase the productivity of the Reno Urban area as a whole. We anticipate this goal achievement style of management will produce positive results.

Fernley/Fallon District

Field enforcement efforts decreased 13% compared to last month however, contained in this report is the fact that crash investigation time increased 117% or 102 hours which decreased our on-view patrol time by 9%. Also in the month of October, one of our troopers worked the entire month on background investigations and another trooper only worked one-half of the month due to a family sick issue. When you factor in the work hours lost of these troopers, there is a reduction of 13% of total hours worked this month. More importantly, the only enforcement area that is reporting a reduction is speed enforcement. Weather caused the cancellation of two scheduled aircraft enforcement days during which speed enforcement is the primary activity. All other reporting areas this month increased over the previous month. Both areas combined are reporting an 88% increase in total violations issued this year compared to last year, with the largest increase generated from the Fallon Troopers reporting a 235% increase.

Arrest activity continues to climb. Having increased D.U.I. arrests to 12 both in September and October, I believe this is the beginning of a trend associated with the twenty-four seven work schedule implemented on the first of September. Overall arrests have increased 43% over last month and 95% compared to last year.

Carson/Minden District

DUI arrests from crashes remained basically unchanged. Four this month, four last month and five last year. DUI arrests prior to crashes increased greatly over last month from 15 to 25. However, they dropped from 39 last year. There was a drop in total hours worked from last year of 33.2% contributing to the drop. The other tracked areas for citations all increased from last year. This was good news considering the same stated loss of manpower from last year. The enforcement activity dropped when compared to last month by 9.9%. With a drop of total hours worked of 3.9%.

The area has begun an active campaign to increase the amount of on view patrol time to increase the overall level of enforcement. The total number of violator contacts is expected to increase immediately.

Commercial Section

The "total safety inspections" were up this month. Taking into consideration that the federal goals changed and the available trained manpower was down, commercial enforcement accomplished many of the new federal fiscal goals. Level 1 Inspection goals changed from 119 in 2002/03 to 137 in 2003/04. Commercial enforcement completed 198 Inspections. Level 2/3 inspections changed from 278 inspections in 2002/03 to 412 in 2003/04, of the new federal fiscal year. The commercial enforcement section was able to complete 372 Inspections.

The commercial enforcement section was able to have seven check sites and get a good start on the new goals due to fair weather. As commercial enforcement is faced with obstacles of untrained new members as well as the I-decks being broken and out for repair, the troopers forged through the dilemma and were able to obtain 152 trucks weighed on the interstate giving a total of 254 weights for the month of October, which include secondary weights. These were not the goals set for the interstate at 173, however, a good impact for the beginning of the new fiscal year. Greater supervision will be given to weight enforcement, as upcoming winter months may prohibit the ability to weigh trucks. Goal tracking will be necessary in order for the commercial enforcement officers to be aware of the numbers that will be needed during the winter months, in order to meet the goals in the spring when weather is not as much of a factor.

As always, winter months cause the Commercial Section to balance commercial enforcement duties with assisting the Traffic Section with their duties, which may have an affect on obtaining Commercial Enforcement goals through the winter months. The number of personnel working the roadway in commercial enforcement is on the increase, and this should help the Commercial Section in obtaining the annual goals, once they have been trained.

M.C.I. (Major Crime Interdiction)

Total Staffing Hours was down this rating period, compared to the last rating period. Work Hours Lost was dramatically up this month as was the Overtime.

In Field Activity, traffic stops went up and stops per hour went up slightly. Verbal warnings were up this rating period, compared to the previous rating period. Vehicle Searches this rating period were down. There were six individuals arrested on various charges, during this rating period. The MCI unit assisted with 94-motorists.

Work on the Drug Interdiction lesson plan continues. This lesson plan will be used around the Northern Command area in teaching other troopers the technique of Drug Interdiction.

To date, we have opened 23 cases and 20 cases are still active. We had eight court cases plead out, prior to trial. Three of these cases have been completely adjudicated through the courts. We continue to work on getting the rest of these cases adjudicated.

We are currently contacting other departments, intra-state and inter-state, to see what their ratios are on traffic stops per hour and citations per hour.

In two of the traffic stops, the MCI unit seized 16 pounds of Marijuana, \$705.00 in currency and approximately 3025 tablets of MDMA (ecstasy) were seized this past month.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

STAFFING	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	64	98	64	98	100.0%	100.0%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	19	19	18	19	94.75	100.0%
Commercial CVSI	3	3	3	3	100.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Annual leave	923.8		1508	-38.7%	688	34.3%
Compensatory leave	689.9		734.5	-6.1%	579.05	19.1%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	878.15		1165.25	-24.6%	735.75	19.4%
Military leave	0		158	-15800%	0	0.0%
Holiday off	0		102	-10200%	112	-11200%
Training	1827		1562.4	16.9%	1646.8	10.9%
Administrative leave	0		42	-4200%	14	-1400%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total work hours lost	4318.85		5272.15		3775.6	14.4%
OVERTIME	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1561		1469	6.3%	1786	-12.6%
Compensatory overtime claimed	284		249	14.1%	324.55	-12.5%
Total overtime hours	1845		1718	7.4%	2110.55	-12.6%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	11072		16954	-34.7%	10207	8.5%
Work hours lost	4318.85		5272.15	-18.1%	3207.2	34.7%
Overtime	1845		1718.15	7.4%	2110.55	-12.6%
Total hours worked	8598.15		13399.85	-35.8%	9110.35	-5.6%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Analysis: Northern Command:

The Northern Command staffing level continued to drop with the reallocation of positions to the Southern Command. Current positions staffed this month are 64 troopers and sergeants, compared to 98 authorized last year.

Numerical staffing numbers shown reflect only those sergeants and troopers whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity and crash investigation. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to full time administrative duties are not included as they have no direct impact on the enforcement or crash reduction efforts.

We continue to operate at a reduced staffing level. This is caused by Military duty, vacancies, extended sick leave and special assignment in Carson City (Headquarters).

Traffic Section

Total current traffic staff working the road (Sergeants and Troopers) **64**

- 30 - Reno Urban
- 17 - Carson/Minden
- 17 - Fernley/Fallon District

Commercial Section

The commercial enforcement section continues to operate at 75%. Other members are assigned as follows:

- 1 Sergeant assigned to Acting Lt. position
- 1 Trooper assigned to Headquarters
- 1 Trooper assigned to the MCI Program
- 1 Trooper on admin/sick leave
- 1 Trooper on re-orientation program

RATIOS – CRASH AND ENFORCEMENT

CRASH RATIOS	October 2003	September 2003
Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total	6.4:1	6.4:1
Property	4.6:1	4.2:1
Injury	1.6:1	2.2:1
Fatal	0.1:1	0:1
DUI	0.3:1	0.2:1
Commercial vehicle	0.1:1	0.1:1
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0:1	0
without seatbelts	0.6:1	0
with seatbelts	0.3:1	0

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes	0.3:1	0.2:1
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	2.1:1	1.6:1
Other Arrests	8.7:1	7.6:1
Speed violations	31.7:1	37.4:1
Hazardous moving violations	12.7:1	14.4:1
Occupant restraint violations	5.7:1	5.0:1
Total violations	83.0:1	88.6:1

RATIOS – CRASH AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS	October 2003	September 2003
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Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations – citations	1.2:1	1.2:1
Other traffic violations – citations	2.8:1	3.1:1
Total safety inspections [all levels]	27.1:1	27.9:1
Terminal inspections TIP	0.0:1	0:1
Total safety violations -- citation *	29.6:1	32.9:1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation	0.9:1	1.0:1
Total safety violations -- repair order	44.4:1	50.0:1
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order	1.6:1	1.8:1
Total vehicles placed “Out of Service”	3.2:1	2.5:1
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection	0.1:1	0.1:1
Total drivers placed “Out of Service”	1.4:1	1.0:1
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection	0.1:1	0.0:1
Total school buses inspected	3.5:1	9.4:1
Total school buses placed “Out of Service”	1.0:1	1.1:1
Total trucks weighed *	14.1:1	17.2:1
Total overweight citations*	2.3:1	3.9:1
Total dyed fuel inspections*	22.6:1	36.5:1
Total dyed fuel citations*	0.3:1	0.1:1

*Commercial Sworn Only

Administration

The troopers assigned to the Court Warrants section performed 20 court runs in October and had 15 add bookings. The troopers completed 16 in state warrant bookings/transport and one Felony out of state extradition. The section cleared 126 warrants by bookings, received and served 270 subpoenas. The administrative assistant assigned to the section received 543 new warrants, completed 57 validations, and performed 14 confirmations. A total of 139 warrants were entered into NCJIS and 48 subpoenas cancelled. The number of warrants entered decreased in October compared to September due to the administrative assistant receiving training in the Court Runs.

Evidence: A total of 66 adjudicated items were destroyed during the month of October. Forty-five new cases with 57 items were submitted to the evidence vault during the month of October.

Front office: We had 343 counter customers, with 171 reports given at the counter window. The front office handled 32 office reports, received 143 arrest reports and 352 accident reports. In addition, the staff received 434 requests for reports and copied and mailed 517 reports. There were 4,856 citations received during the month of October.

Staffing and work hours:

Sworn staff: A total of 134.5 work hours were lost in October compared to 268 hours in September. The majority of these hours were annual leave for one trooper and for the Nevada Day Holiday. Another reason for the reduction is there is no longer a trooper vacancy in the section as the position was reclassified to an Administrative Assistant II position in September. A total of 9 hours of overtime was claimed in the section, a reduction of 35 hours from September.

Civilian staff: The total hours worked increased by 36% in October compared to September. This increase in hours worked was due to two vacancies being filled in the front office. Overtime in the section has also decreased by 19 hours, which is a direct result of filling the prior vacancies. The training hours in the section increased compared to September, as there was supervisory training given for several of the staff and training for the timekeeper. The evidence technician provided evidence procedure training at the training division as well.

Projects / Action Plans and Upcoming Events

Reno Urban

Projects / Action Plans

Aggressive "Bowl Patrol" will continue during commuter times. As always, traffic stops in the bowl area during these times will be discouraged and the troopers will strive for visibility. We will continue to utilize the radar trailer in and around the bowl area and construction zones. If another location shows a rise in crash volume, we will utilize both high visibility and the radar trailer in an effort to reduce the number of crashes we are experiencing.

Upcoming Events

For the month of November there are no large special events planned for the urban area. We hope this will give an opportunity to increase productivity and add or aid in our effort to better serve the motoring public.

Fernley / Fallon District

Projects / Action Plans

Field enforcement activity and public service as it compares to last year is our primary focus for the next several months. Historically winter statistics has dropped off. We will continue to impress upon our personnel that the level of service expected of us by the public; is to insure the motoring public that we are making every effort to provide them with quality service through continued enforcement efforts and improved actions plans.

Target Directed Enforcement upon the opening of the 4 lane US50 improvement.

Planned use of aircraft, radar trailer, adapt vehicle and on-view patrols (Aircraft enforcement planned for four dates).

Obtain D.O.T. traffic counts for Fernley areas US95A.

Develop accident investigation accountability plan (draft) for Fernley city limits by the end of the month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Area winter DOT meeting. Date pending.

Area meeting 19th

Training

- Air Observer class
- Sexual Harassment
- Taser
- Defensive Tactics
- Range (night shoot)

Carson / Minden District

Projects / Action Plans

The Area is addressing current problems and trends by reassigning the manpower available. Due to an unexpected delay with the assignment of a trooper to motors, another trooper will be reassigned back to the day shift for coverage.

Upcoming Events:

The Nevada Day Parade was held on November 1, 2003. The Carson/Tahoe/Minden Area troopers provided traffic control, and there were no crashes or incidents as a result. The area motor officers participated in the parade.

Veterans Day – November 11.

Thanksgiving Day – November 27

Commercial Enforcement***PROJECTS / ACTION PLANS:***

Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section has many State and Federal training requirements, which need to be met. Some of which are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| • North American Standards | One Trooper |
| • Roadside Hazmat | Five Troopers |
| • Bulk Packaging / Tanker for Hazardous Materials | Five Troopers |
| • Motor Coach | Six Troopers |
| • New Record of Duty – Hours of Service Rules | Twelve Troopers |

The Northern Nevada Commercial Section believes that it is essential to train its troopers to assist in the security of the Nation and the residents of Nevada. Two officers are being trained as the instructors in the field of Weapons of Mass Destruction and upon returning will be responsible to train fellow troopers. In addition, Nevada Motor Transportation Association and Northern Commercial Section are working together to train drivers of commercial vehicles on recognition of unusual activity or circumstances that need to be reported to the authorities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Southern Command Commercial section is hosting a 72 hour roadblock at the Sloan inspection site November 13 thru 15, which will help the Northern Commercial Section obtain and maintain its goals during the month of November.

At the present time one officer is scheduled for the North American Standards Training, four officers are scheduled for roadside hazardous material training.

All commercial troopers will receive the training for the new record of status in November.

One trooper will be traveling to Elko and Las Vegas to train the other statewide commercial troopers in the new standards.

NCIC training is required for Commercial Troopers. Certification is for a two-year period. There are four commercial troopers scheduled for this training, during the first week of November.

The Las Vegas scales are scheduled to come up to Reno for re-certification from DOT. Commercial enforcement will be needed to assist in order to get this completed and the scales returned to Las Vegas in a timely manner.

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Public Information Activities

The direction of the Public Information for the Northern Command has changed considerably with the emphasis on saturation of information to the public. This information will be in the form of many avenues such as new posters, radios talk shows, TV public service announcements and other identified opportunities. The Department of Public Safety Public Information Officer, Kim Evans, taught many of the Northern Command supervisors and Troopers a course for communicating with the media. The Supervisors and Troopers will be intricately involved in the public information processes. The benefit of these newly trained personnel will be to provide better and more timely information to the public concerning driver education, current issues facing the motoring public, safety techniques and on-scene media information.

This month the Reno Northern Command had the 1st grade classes of Caughlin Ranch Elementary school come to the office for their field trip. The theme presented to the students was seatbelt awareness. The students were given a short class on the value of wearing seatbelts. The students were then taken outside and several of the students participated in conducting mock traffic stops as Junior Troopers. The rest of the students watched these mock traffic stops. Afterwards, the students were brought into the classroom to view the traffic stops which were taped on video. The excited response from the students as well as the teachers and parents was exceptional. This event was a huge success and will continue on a more frequent basis.

Northern Command was also successful in an Adult Education Event at Scruples. This event focuses on the education of how alcohol effects individuals and the subsequent decisions to drive after having several alcoholic drinks. The event was well received and the education of safety was presented in a positive manner. Additional information about this event can be obtained from the Reno Gazette Journal, at the following website,
<http://www.rgj.com/news/stories/html/2003/10/31/55561>.